

AN ACT in relation to environmental protection.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Environmental Protection Act is amended  
by changing Sections 13 and 19.3 and adding Section 13.5 as  
follows:

(415 ILCS 5/13) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1013)

Sec. 13. Regulations.

(a) The Board, pursuant to procedures prescribed in  
Title VII of this Act, may adopt regulations to promote the  
purposes and provisions of this Title. Without limiting the  
generality of this authority, such regulations may among  
other things prescribe:

(1) Water quality standards specifying among other  
things, the maximum short-term and long-term  
concentrations of various contaminants in the waters, the  
minimum permissible concentrations of dissolved oxygen  
and other desirable matter in the waters, and the  
temperature of such waters;

(2) Effluent standards specifying the maximum  
amounts or concentrations, and the physical, chemical,  
thermal, biological and radioactive nature of  
contaminants that may be discharged into the waters of  
the State, as defined herein, including, but not limited  
to, waters to any sewage works, or into any well, or from  
any source within the State;

(3) Standards for the issuance of permits for  
construction, installation, or operation of any  
equipment, facility, vessel, or aircraft capable of  
causing or contributing to water pollution or designed to  
prevent water pollution or for the construction or

installation of any sewer or sewage treatment facility or any new outlet for contaminants into the waters of this State;

(4) The circumstances under which the operators of sewage works are required to obtain and maintain certification by the Agency under Section 13.5 and the types of sewage works to which those requirements apply, which may, without limitation, include wastewater treatment works, pretreatment works, and sewers and collection systems; ~~Standards--for--the-definition-and certification-of-the-technical--competency--of--operation personnel--for--sewage--works,--and-for-ascertaining-that such-works-shall-be--under--the--supervision--of--trained individuals-whose-qualifications-shall-have-been-approved by-the-Agency;~~

(5) Standards for the filling or sealing of abandoned water wells and holes, and holes for disposal of drainage in order to protect ground water against contamination;

(6) Standards and conditions regarding the sale, offer, or use of any pesticide, detergent, or any other article determined by the Board to constitute a water pollution hazard, provided that any such regulations relating to pesticides shall be adopted only in accordance with the "Illinois Pesticide Act", approved August 14, 1979 as amended;

(7) Alert and abatement standards relative to water-pollution episodes or emergencies which constitute an acute danger to health or to the environment;

(8) Requirements and procedures for the inspection of any equipment, facility, or vessel that may cause or contribute to water pollution;

(9) Requirements and standards for equipment and procedures for monitoring contaminant discharges at their

sources, the collection of samples and the collection, reporting and retention of data resulting from such monitoring.

(b) Notwithstanding other provisions of this Act and for purposes of implementing an NPDES program, the Board shall adopt:

(1) Requirements, standards, and procedures which, together with other regulations adopted pursuant to this Section 13, are necessary or appropriate to enable the State of Illinois to implement and participate in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) pursuant to and under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as now or hereafter amended. All regulations adopted by the Board governing the NPDES program shall be consistent with the applicable provisions of such federal Act and regulations pursuant thereto, and otherwise shall be consistent with all other provisions of this Act, and shall exclude from the requirement to obtain any operating permit otherwise required under this Title a facility for which an NPDES permit has been issued under Section 39(b); provided, however, that for purposes of this paragraph, a UIC permit, as required under Section 12(g) and 39(d) of this Act, is not an operating permit.

(2) Regulations for the exemption of any category or categories of persons or contaminant sources from the requirement to obtain any NPDES permit prescribed or from any standards or conditions governing such permit when the environment will be adequately protected without the requirement of such permit, and such exemption is either consistent with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as now or hereafter amended, or regulations pursuant thereto, or is necessary to avoid an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship to such category or categories of persons or sources.

(c) In accordance with Section 7.2, and notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, for purposes of implementing a State UIC program, the Board shall adopt regulations which are identical in substance to federal regulations or amendments thereto promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with Section 1421 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (P.L. 93-523), as amended. The Board may consolidate into a single rulemaking under this Section all such federal regulations adopted within a period of time not to exceed 6 months. The provisions and requirements of Title VII of this Act shall not apply to regulations adopted under this subsection. Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to regulations adopted under this subsection.

(d) The Board may adopt regulations relating to a State UIC program that are not inconsistent with and are at least as stringent as the Safe Drinking Water Act (P.L. 93-523), as amended, or regulations adopted thereunder. Regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions and requirements of Title VII of this Act and the procedures for rulemaking in Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act.

(Source: P.A. 88-45.)

(415 ILCS 5/13.5 new)

Sec. 13.5. Sewage works; operator certification.

(a) For the purposes of this Section, the term "sewage works" includes, without limitation, wastewater treatment works, pretreatment works, and sewers and collection systems.

(b) The Agency may establish and enforce standards for the definition and certification of the technical competency of personnel who operate sewage works, and for ascertaining that sewage works are under the supervision of trained

individuals whose qualifications have been approved by the Agency.

(c) The Agency may issue certificates of competency to persons meeting the standards of technical competency established by the Agency under this Section, and may promulgate and enforce regulations pertaining to the issuance and use of those certificates.

(d) The Agency shall administer the certification program established under this Section. The Agency may enter into formal working agreements with other departments or agencies of State or local government under which all or portions of its authority under this Section may be delegated to the cooperating department or agency.

(e) This Section and the changes made to subdivision (a)(4) of Section 13 by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly do not invalidate the operator certification rules previously adopted by the Agency and codified as Part 380 of Title 35, Subtitle C, Chapter II of the Illinois Administrative Code. Those rules, as amended from time to time, shall continue in effect until they are superseded or repealed.

(415 ILCS 5/19.3) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1019.3)  
Sec. 19.3. Water Revolving Fund.

(a) There is hereby created within the State Treasury a Water Revolving Fund, consisting of 3 interest-bearing special programs to be known as the Water Pollution Control Loan Program, the Public Water Supply Loan Program, and the Loan Support Program, which shall be used and administered by the Agency.

(b) The Water Pollution Control Loan Program shall be used and administered by the Agency to provide assistance for the following purposes:

(1) to accept and retain funds from grant awards,

appropriations, transfers, and payments of interest and principal;

(2) to make direct loans at or below market interest rates to any eligible local government unit to finance the construction of wastewater treatments works;

(3) to make direct loans at or below market interest rates to any eligible local government unit to buy or refinance debt obligations for treatment works incurred after March 7, 1985;

(3.5) to make direct loans at or below market interest rates for the implementation of a management program established under Section 319 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended;

(4) to guarantee or purchase insurance for local obligations where such action would improve credit market access or reduce interest rates;

(5) as a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by the State or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof, if the proceeds of such bonds will be deposited in the Fund;

(6) to finance the reasonable costs incurred by the Agency in the administration of the Fund; and

(7) to transfer funds to the Public Water Supply Loan Program {blank}.

(c) The Loan Support Program shall be used and administered by the Agency for the following purposes:

(1) to accept and retain funds from grant awards and appropriations;

(2) to finance the reasonable costs incurred by the Agency in the administration of the Fund, including activities under Title III of this Act, including the administration of the State construction grant program;

(3) to transfer funds to the Water Pollution

Control Loan Program and the Public Water Supply Loan Program;

(4) to accept and retain a portion of the loan repayments;

(5) to finance the development of the low interest loan program for public water supply projects;

(6) to finance the reasonable costs incurred by the Agency to provide technical assistance for public water supplies; and

(7) to finance the reasonable costs incurred by the Agency for public water system supervision programs, to administer or provide for technical assistance through source water protection programs, to develop and implement a capacity development strategy, to delineate and assess source water protection areas, and for an operator certification program in accordance with Section 1452 of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

(d) The Public Water Supply Loan Program shall be used and administered by the Agency to provide assistance to local government units and privately owned community water supplies for public water supplies for the following public purposes:

(1) to accept and retain funds from grant awards, appropriations, transfers, and payments of interest and principal;

(2) to make direct loans at or below market interest rates to any eligible local government unit or to any eligible privately owned community water supply to finance the construction of water supplies;

(3) to buy or refinance the debt obligation of a local government unit for costs incurred on or after July 17, 1997;

(4) to guarantee local obligations where such action would improve credit market access or reduce interest rates;

(5) as a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by the State or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof, if the proceeds of such bonds will be deposited into the Fund; and

(6) to transfer funds to the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (blank).

(e) The Agency is designated as the administering agency of the Fund. The Agency shall submit to the Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency an intended use plan which outlines the proposed use of funds available to the State. The Agency shall take all actions necessary to secure to the State the benefits of the federal Water Pollution Control Act and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as now or hereafter amended.

(f) The Agency shall have the power to enter into intergovernmental agreements with the federal government or the State, or any instrumentality thereof, for purposes of capitalizing the Water Revolving Fund. Moneys on deposit in the Water Revolving Fund may be used for the creation of reserve funds or pledged funds that secure the obligations of repayment of loans made pursuant to this Section. For the purpose of obtaining capital for deposit into the Water Revolving Fund, the Agency may also enter into agreements with financial institutions and other persons for the purpose of selling loans and developing a secondary market for such loans. The Agency shall have the power to create and establish such reserve funds and accounts as may be necessary or desirable to accomplish its purposes under this subsection and to allocate its available moneys into such funds and accounts. Investment earnings on moneys held in the Water Revolving Fund, including any reserve fund or pledged fund, shall be deposited into the Water Revolving Fund.

(Source: P.A. 91-36, eff. 6-15-99; 91-52, eff. 6-30-99;

Public Act 093-0170  
HB3506 Enrolled

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91-501, eff. 8-13-99; 92-16, 6-28-01.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.